

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	NO. 4:23 CR 692 SEP
v.)	
)	
TERRELL WILLIAMS)	
)	
Defendant.)	

GUILTY-PLEA AGREEMENT

Come now the parties and hereby agree, as follows:

1. PARTIES:

The parties are the defendant Terrell Williams represented by defense counsel Kenneth Schwartz, and the United States of America (hereinafter "United States" or "Government"), represented by the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. This agreement does not, and is not intended to, bind any governmental office or agency other than the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. The Court is neither a party to nor bound by this agreement.

2. GUILTY PLEA:

A. The Plea:

Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A), of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, in exchange for the Defendant's voluntary plea of guilty to Count One of the Indictment, the United States agrees that no further federal prosecution will be brought in this District relative to Defendant's violations

of federal law, known to the United States at this time, arising out of the events set forth in the Indictment.

B. The Sentence:

The parties agree that the recommendations contained herein fairly and accurately set forth some guidelines that may be applicable to this case. The parties agree to request a sentence of eighteen (18) months imprisonment followed by three (3) years of supervised release. The parties understand that the Court is neither a party to nor bound by the sentencing request of the parties nor the Guidelines recommendations agreed to in this document.

3. ELEMENTS:

The Defendant admits to knowingly violating Title 7, United States Code, Section 2156(a)-(c) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 49(a), and admits there is a factual basis for the plea and further fully understands that the elements of the crime and the facts admitted by the Defendant are as follows:

- (1) the Defendant did knowingly sponsor, exhibit, sell, buy, possess, train and receive one or more canines for the purpose of participating in one or more events that involved a fight conducted between at least two canines for the purpose of sport, wagering and entertainment.
- (2) the Defendant did knowingly attend one or more such events that involved a fight conducted between at least two canines for the purpose of sport, wagering and entertainment;
- (3) the defendant did knowingly use cellular or internet communications, instrumentalities of interstate commerce, to communicate and facilitate one or

more such events that involved a fight conducted between at least two canines for the purpose of sport, wagering and entertainment; and

- (4) such events were conducted in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce.

4. **FACTS:**

The parties agree that the facts in this case are as follows and that the United States would prove these facts beyond a reasonable doubt if the case were to go to trial. These facts may be considered as relevant conduct pursuant to Section 1B1.3:

In March of 2019, agents with FBI-St. Louis identified the Defendant as one of multiple individuals who participates in the illegal fighting of pit bull terrier breed or mixed pit bull terrier breed canines for sport and gambling purposes that were determined, after further investigation, to have occurred between September 5, 2020, and May 1, 2022. On or between September 5, 2020, and May 1, 2022, the Defendant bred and owned multiple pit bull terrier or mixed pit bull terrier canines which he utilized for dog fighting by sponsoring, exhibiting, selling, buying, possessing, training and receiving these canines for fights conducted between at least two canines for the purpose of sport, wagering and entertainment. During this time, the Defendant fought canines in the St. Louis area. The Defendant maintained a wooden "box" setup in the basement of his residence on Diamond Drive in St. Louis, which he utilized to host and sponsor dog fighting events inside of the residence.

In or around July of 2021, the Defendant sponsored, exhibited and attended a dog fight at his personal residence on Diamond Drive in St. Louis County that involved multiple spectators and involved canines that the Defendant assisted in possessing, training, delivering, exhibiting and engaging in such dog fighting. The July 2021, dog fight at the residence of the Defendant

was for the purpose of sport and entertainment for the Defendant and others in attendance. This fight was organized and coordinated using the internet and cellular telecommunications, which the parties agree are instrumentalities of interstate commerce. Images of this dog fighting event are set forth below:



In or around August of 2021, the Defendant sponsored, exhibited and attended another dog fight at his personal residence on Diamond Drive in St. Louis County that involved multiple spectators and involved canines that the Defendant assisted in possessing, training, delivering, exhibiting and engaging in such dog fighting. The fight was between a canine owned by the Defendant and another canine. The August 2021, dog fight at the residence of the Defendant was

for the purpose of sport and entertainment for the Defendant and others in attendance. This fight was organized and coordinated using the internet and cellular telecommunications, which the parties agree are instrumentalities of interstate commerce. Images of this dog fighting event are set forth below:

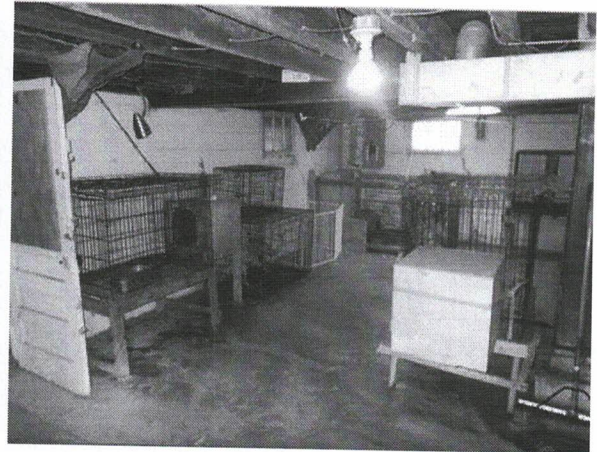
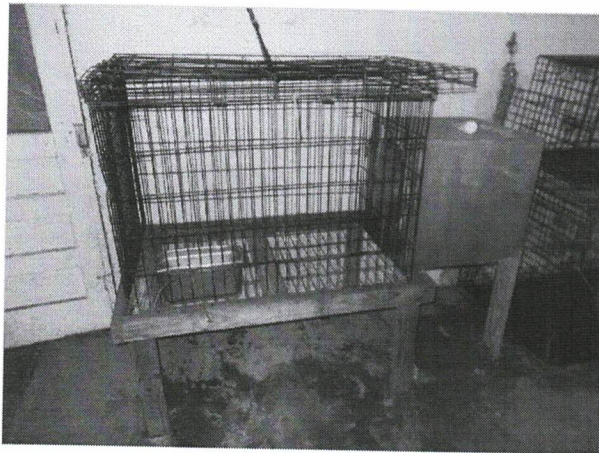


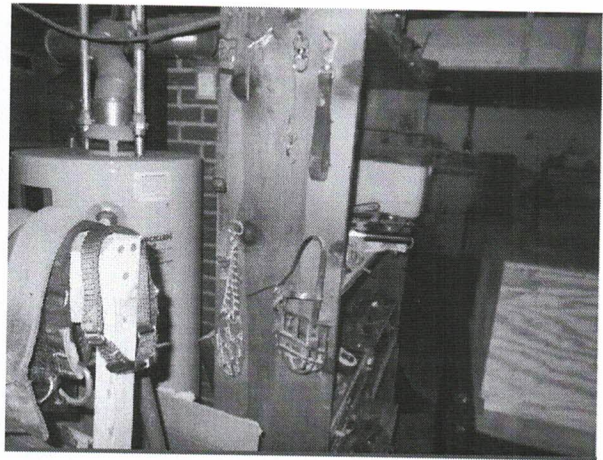
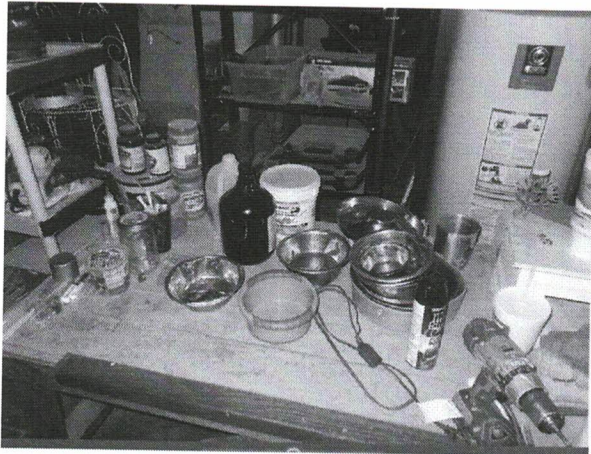
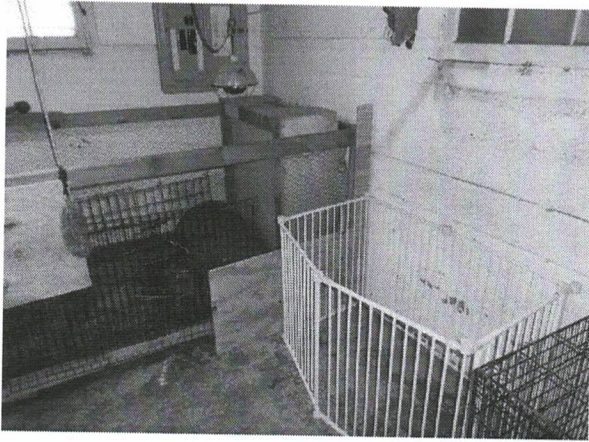
A search warrant was lawfully obtained and subsequently lawfully executed at the residence of the Defendant on Diamond Drive in St. Louis on June 22, 2022. Eight (8) Pit Bull terrier mix dogs and three (3) Yorkshire Terrier dogs were seized during the execution of the

search warrant. Many items associated with dog fighting and the conditioning of dogs for fighting were located in the residence of the Defendant.

Multiple canines were located and seized. A qualified veterinarian examined the canines seized from the residence of the Defendant and opined that multiple canines appear to be aggressive to humans or other canines; to be anxious and fearful in demeanor; and to have scars consistent with dog bites and dog fighting.

At his residence on Diamond Drive in St. Louis on June 22, 2022, the Defendant further possessed multiple items that he used to train and condition canines for dog fighting such as weighted vests, weights, leashes, vitamins, body enhancing chemicals, cages and canine treadmills. Some of these items are depicted below:





In summary, between September 5, 2020, and May 1, 2022, in the County of St. Louis and elsewhere, the Defendant sponsored, exhibited, sold, bought, possessed, trained and received

multiple canines for the purpose of participating in multiple events that involved a fight conducted between at least two canines for the purpose of sport and entertainment; at least two such dog fighting events were held by the Defendant in his residence in St. Louis County. Between September 5, 2020, and May 1, 2022, the Defendant attended multiple dog fighting events that involved a fight conducted between at least two canines for the purpose of sport, wagering and entertainment. The Defendant used cellular or internet communications via his cellular telephone to communicate and facilitate one or more such dog fighting events.

5. STATUTORY PENALTIES:

The Defendant fully understands that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for the crime to which the Defendant is pleading guilty is imprisonment of not more than five (5) years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both such imprisonment and fine. The Court also may impose a period of supervised release of not more than three years.

6. U.S. SENTENCING GUIDELINES: 2023 MANUAL

The Defendant understands that this offense is affected by the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the actual sentencing range is determined by both the Total Offense Level and the Criminal History Category. The parties agree that the following are the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level provisions that apply.

A. Chapter 2 Offense Conduct:

i. **Base Offense Level:** The parties agree that the Base Offense Level is sixteen (16) as found in Section 2E3.1(a)(1).

ii. **Specific Offense Characteristics:** The parties agree that no Specific Offense Characteristics are known to apply at this time.

B. Chapter 3 Adjustments:

i. **Acceptance of Responsibility:** The parties recommend that two (2) levels should be deducted pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1(a) because Defendant has clearly demonstrated acceptance of responsibility. If the deduction pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1(a) is applied and the Defendant is otherwise eligible, then the United States moves to deduct one (1) additional level pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1(b)(2), because Defendant timely notified authorities of the intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the United States to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Court to allocate its resources efficiently.

The parties agree that if Defendant does not abide by all of the agreements made within this document, Defendant's failure to comply is grounds for the loss of acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1. The parties further agree that Defendant's eligibility for a reduction pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1 is based upon the information known at the present time and that any actions of Defendant which occur or which become known to the United States subsequent to this agreement and are inconsistent with Defendant's acceptance of responsibility including, but not limited to criminal conduct, are grounds for the loss of acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1. In any event, the parties agree that all of the remaining provisions of this agreement remain valid and in full force and effect.

C. **Estimated Total Offense Level:** The parties agree that the Total Offense Level is estimated to be thirteen (13).

D. **Criminal History:** The determination of the Defendant's Criminal History Category shall be left to the Court. Either party may challenge, before and at sentencing, the finding of the Presentence Report as to the Defendant's criminal history and the applicable

category. The Defendant's criminal history is known to the Defendant and is substantially available in the Pretrial Services Report.

E. **Effect of Parties' U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Analysis:** The parties agree that the Court is not bound by the Guidelines analysis agreed to herein. The parties may not have foreseen all applicable Guidelines. The Court may, in its discretion, apply or not apply any Guideline despite the agreement herein and the parties shall not be permitted to withdraw from the plea agreement.

7. **WAIVER OF APPEAL AND POST-CONVICTION RIGHTS:**

A. **Appeal:** The Defendant has been fully apprised by defense counsel of the Defendant's rights concerning appeal and fully understands the right to appeal the sentence under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742.

i. **Non-Sentencing Issues:** The parties waive all rights to appeal all non-jurisdictional, non-sentencing issues, including, but not limited to, any issues relating to pretrial motions, discovery and the guilty plea, the constitutionality of the statute(s) to which defendant is pleading guilty and whether defendant's conduct falls within the scope of the statute(s).

ii. **Sentencing Issues:** In the event the Court accepts the plea and, after determining a Sentencing Guidelines range, sentences the Defendant within or below that range, then, as part of this agreement, the Defendant hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, as it relates to both Base Offense Level and Criminal History Category. Similarly, the United States hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, provided the Court accepts the plea and sentences the Defendant within or above the determined Sentencing Guidelines range.

B. **Habeas Corpus:** The Defendant agrees to waive all rights to contest the conviction or sentence in any post-conviction proceeding, including one pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, except for claims of prosecutorial misconduct or ineffective assistance of counsel.

C. **Right to Records:** The Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 522, or the Privacy Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552(a).

8. **OTHER:**

A. **Disclosures Required by the United States Probation Office:** The Defendant agrees to truthfully complete and sign forms as required by the United States Probation Office prior to sentencing and consents to the release of these forms and any supporting documentation by the United States Probation Office to the United States.

B. **Civil or Administrative Actions not Barred; Effect on Other Governmental Agencies:** Nothing contained herein limits the rights and authority of the United States to take any civil, tax, immigration/deportation or administrative action against the Defendant.

C. **Supervised Release:** Pursuant to any supervised release term, the Court will impose standard conditions upon the Defendant and may impose special conditions related to the crime Defendant committed. These conditions will be restrictions on the Defendant to which the Defendant will be required to adhere. Violation of the conditions of supervised release resulting in revocation may require the Defendant to serve a term of imprisonment equal to the length of the term of supervised release, but not greater than the term set forth in Title 18, United States Code,

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Section 3583(e)(3), without credit for the time served after release. The Defendant understands that parole has been abolished.

D. **Mandatory Special Assessment:** This offense is subject to the provisions of the Criminal Fines Improvement Act of 1987 and the Court is required to impose a mandatory special assessment of \$100 per count for a total of \$100, which the Defendant agrees to pay at the time of sentencing. Money paid by the Defendant toward any restitution or fine imposed by the Court shall be first used to pay any unpaid mandatory special assessment.

E. **Possibility of Detention:** The Defendant may be subject to immediate detention pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3143.

F. **Fines and Costs of Incarceration and Supervision:** The Court may impose a fine, costs of incarceration, and costs of supervision. The Defendant agrees that any fine imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately.

G. **Forfeiture:** The defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives any right, title, and interest in all items seized by law enforcement officials during the course of their investigation to include all canines seized by law enforcement on June 22, 2022, from the premises of 9906 Diamond Drive in St. Louis, Missouri including three (3) Yorkshire Terrier canines, eight (8) Pitbull Terrier mix canines, a Motorola cellular telephone, a notebook, a canine treadmill, syringes, leashes, collars, weighted vests, harnesses, vitamins and chemical enhancements whether or not they are subject to forfeiture, and agrees not to contest the vesting of title of such items in the United States. The defendant agrees that said items may be disposed of by law enforcement officials in any manner.

9. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WAIVER OF THE DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS:**

In pleading guilty, the Defendant acknowledges, fully understands and hereby waives his rights, including but not limited to: the right to plead not guilty to the charges; the right to be tried by a jury in a public and speedy trial; the right to file pretrial motions, including motions to suppress or exclude evidence; the right at such trial to a presumption of innocence; the right to require the United States to prove the elements of the offenses charged against the Defendant beyond a reasonable doubt; the right not to testify; the right not to present any evidence; the right to be protected from compelled self-incrimination; the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses; the right to testify and present evidence and the right to compel the attendance of witnesses. The Defendant further understands that by this guilty plea, the Defendant expressly waives all the rights set forth in this paragraph.

The Defendant fully understands that the Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary, to have the Court appoint counsel at trial and at every other stage of the proceeding. The Defendant's counsel has explained these rights and the consequences of the waiver of these rights. The Defendant fully understands that, as a result of the guilty plea, no trial will, in fact, occur and that the only action remaining to be taken in this case is the imposition of the sentence.

The Defendant is fully satisfied with the representation received from defense counsel. The Defendant has reviewed the United States' evidence and discussed the United States' case and all possible defenses and defense witnesses with defense counsel. Defense counsel has completely and satisfactorily explored all areas which the Defendant has requested relative to the United States' case and any defenses.

10. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE GUILTY PLEA AND PLEA AGREEMENT:

This document constitutes the entire agreement between the Defendant and the United States, and no other promises or inducements have been made, directly or indirectly, by any agent of the United States, including any Department of Justice attorney, concerning any plea to be entered in this case. In addition, the Defendant states that no person has, directly or indirectly, threatened or coerced the Defendant to do or refrain from doing anything in connection with any aspect of this case, including entering a plea of guilty.

The Defendant acknowledges having voluntarily entered into both the plea agreement and the guilty plea. The Defendant further acknowledges that this guilty plea is made of the Defendant's own free will and that the Defendant is, in fact, guilty.

11. CONSEQUENCES OF POST-PLEA MISCONDUCT:

After pleading guilty and before sentencing, if Defendant commits any crime, other than minor traffic offenses, violates any conditions of release that results in revocation, violates any term of this guilty-plea agreement, intentionally provides misleading, incomplete or untruthful information to the U.S. Probation Office or fails to appear for sentencing, the United States, at its option, may be released from its obligations under this agreement. The United States may also, in its discretion, proceed with this agreement and may advocate for any sentencing position supported by the facts, including but not limited to obstruction of justice and denial of acceptance of responsibility.

12. NO RIGHT TO WITHDRAW GUILTY PLEA:

Pursuant to Rule 11(c) and (d), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Defendant understands that there will be no right to withdraw the plea entered under this agreement, except

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where the Court rejects those portions of the plea agreement which deal with charges the United States agrees to dismiss or not to bring.

2/12/25

Date

Jillian S. Anderson

JILLIAN S. ANDERSON, #53918MO
Assistant United States Attorney

02/10/25

Date

Terrell Williams

TERRELL WILLIAMS
Defendant

2/10/25

Date

Kenneth Schwartz
KENNETH SCHWARTZ
Attorney for Defendant

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